

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 998

By Akbari

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Temetrius Jamel Morant on being selected as a starter in the 2022 NBA All-Star Game.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to recognize an outstanding basketball player and fierce competitor who has quickly become a superstar in the National Basketball Association (NBA); and

WHEREAS, Temetrius Jamel "Ja" Morant of the Memphis Grizzlies, at just twenty-two years of age, has won a legion of fans across Tennessee and around the globe as a force to be reckoned with on the hardwood in the NBA; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his outstanding play, Mr. Morant has been selected as a starter for the 2022 NBA All-Star game on February 20, 2022, at Rocket Mortgage Field House in Cleveland, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, only the second player for the Grizzlies to be selected as a starting player, he drew an amazing number of votes from fans, fellow players, and the media to rank second in voting for Western Conference guard; and

WHEREAS, a native of South Carolina, Mr. Morant was an All-State basketball player at Crestwood High School and played collegiately for Murray State University, where he earned first-team All-OVC honors and OVC All-Newcomer Team accolades his freshman season as he led the Racers to the OVC Championship and a spot in the NCAA tournament; and

WHEREAS, named OVC Player of the Year and first-team All-OVC his sophomore year, Mr. Morant broke OVC records for most assists in an OVC game and most consecutive made free throws in a game; in addition, he set Murray State's single-season assist record on his way to becoming the OVC's all-time recordholder for most assists in a single season; and

WHEREAS, while leading Murray State to their second consecutive OVC Championship, Mr. Morant earned All-American honors from the United States Basketball Writers Association and was named as a top five pick on multiple NBA draft prospect lists for the 2019 NBA draft; and

WHEREAS, Ja Morant was drafted second overall in the 2019 NBA draft by the Memphis Grizzlies and made his debut on October 23, 2019; he commanded the court from the beginning in his first season as he was named the NBA Rookie of the Year and earned NBA All-Rookie First Team honors, leading all rookies in assists with an average of 7.1 and total points scored with 1,138; and

WHEREAS, truly enjoying an All-Star season, he is currently averaging an amazing 26.4 points per game and 6.8 assists per game while posting an incredible 49.1 percent field goal percentage, including 35.4 percent from behind the three-point line; and

WHEREAS, the first player this season to win back-to-back Player of the Week awards from the NBA, Mr. Morant has jumped up the MVP leaderboard; he has become a human highlight reel on the court, with earthshattering dunks and aerial displays to rival the legends of the game, while leading the Grizzlies on their incredible eleven-game winning streak; and

WHEREAS, having demonstrated the heart and soul of a champion, Ja Morant is a true inspiration to all Tennesseans and is worthy of our awe and approbation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Temetrius Jamel Morant of the Memphis Grizzlies on being named a starter in the 2022 NBA All-Star Game, pay tribute to his exemplary performance, and extend to him our best wishes for even greater success in pursuit of an NBA championship this season.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.